

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Chang for the courtesies extended to the undersigned during a telephone Interview conducted December 12, 2003. In the Office Action mailed November 28, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1-27 and 32-35. By way of the foregoing amendments and the markings to show changes, Applicants have amended claims 1, 21, 33 and 35. The foregoing amendments are taken in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicant would otherwise be entitled in view of the prior art.

I. Rejections under 35 USC 112

The Office Action suggest that the term, "'internally of' appears vague and indefinite". Applicants have revised the term to read "between" as was presumed by the Office Action.

II. Rejections under 35 USC 102 or 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1-27 and 33-35 as anticipated by or obvious in view of Hopton et al. (US 6253524) and, for some of the claims, Wycech (US 5992923). Applicants submitted a sample amendment to Examiner Chang and it was agreed between Applicants and Examiner Chang that the above claims are patentably distinct relative to the references of record, particularly relative to Hopton and Wycech as discussed in the interview summary mailed faxed January 9, 2004.

By amending the application, the Applicants do not concede that the patent coverage available to them would not extend as far as the original claim. Rather, Applicants intend to file a continuation application to pursue the breadth of the claims as filed. Applicants believe that the Examiner has not made a sufficient showing of inherency of the teachings of the asserted prior art, especially given the lack of teachings in the cited references of the properties that Applicants have recited in their claims.

Further, by the present amendment, it does not follow that the amended claims have become so perfect in their description that no one could devise an equivalent. After amendment, as before, limitations in the ability to describe the

present invention in language in the patent claims naturally prevent the Applicants from capturing every nuance of the invention or describing with complete precision the range of its novelty or every possible equivalent. See, Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., 62 USPQ2d 1705 (2002). Accordingly, the foregoing amendments are made specifically in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicants would otherwise be entitled.

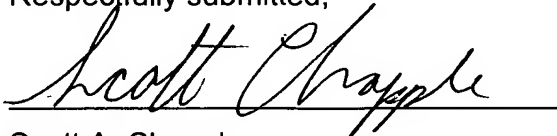
CONCLUSIONS

In view of Applicants' amendments and remarks, the Examiner's rejections are believed to be rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience. Should the Examiner have any question or wish to further discuss this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (248) 593-9900.

If for some reason Applicant has not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1097 for any fee which may be due.

Dated: 1-21, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Scott A. Chapple", written over a horizontal line.

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